

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 011501Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 700

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR, SP

SUBJECT: BROAD GAUGED ANTI-FRANCO CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

REF: A) ATHENS 7436 B) THESSALONIKI 578 (NOTAL)

1. EMULATING THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS, THE GREEKS HAVE CONTINUED TO PUSH AHEAD IN A VARIETY OF FORA WITH THE ANTI-FRANCO CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS SPARKED BY THE EXECUTION OF THE FIVE TERRORISTS. IN ADDITION TO THE INITIAL OFFICIAL CRITICAL STANCE ADOPTED BY THE GOG (REF A), THE PRESS REPORTS ON OCTOBER 1 THAT IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION "A SENIOR GREEK OFFICIAL/ REPLIED THAT THE RECALL OF THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND A DECISION WAS SOON TO BE TAKEN. IN FACT, THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN TRAVELLED SUDDENLY TO ROME ON SEPTEMBER 30 TO BRIEF FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT THERE. A FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE TOLD AN EMOBFF THAT AS OF TODAY (OCTOBER 1) NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN YET AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN TO MADRID.

2. THE POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO JUMP ON THE
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ANTI-SPANISH BANDWAGON. AS REPORTED IN REF A, MANY OF THE

OPPOSITION PARTIES ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENTS EULOGIZING THE EXECUTED VICTIMS AS PATRIOTS AND DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM AGAINST THE FASCISM OF FRANCO WHILE EVINCING OUTRAGE AT THE EXECUTIONS. LIKEWISE, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEA DEMOCRATIA PARTY SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ITS REPUGNANCE AT THE EXECUTION OF THE "SPANISH PATRIOTS AND THE FIGHTERS OF LIBERTY." UNDERLINING THAT THE NEA DEMOCRATIA PARTY WAS ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH "THE PANHELLENIC AND WORLD INDIGNATION FOR THE CONTEMPT OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE BRUTAL PROVOCATION TO THE CONSCIENCE OF ALL FREE MEN," THE COMMITTEE MADE KNOWN ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE "OPPRESSED SPANISH PEOPLE." ON THE OTHER HAND, SOCIALIST PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU LEVELED ANOTHER FIERY BLAST AT THE GOG FOR WHAT HE CLAIMED WAS ITS INACTION "EVIDENTLY TO PLEASE WASHINGTON" WITH REGARD TO THE HIDEOUS FASCIST SPANISH REGIME, AND CALLED FOR THE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

3. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC REACTION AS WELL. FOR INSTANCE, THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) AND OTHER UNIONS HAVE SCHEDULED SHORT WORK STOPPAGES ON THURSDAY TO MARK THE EXECUTION OF THE "FIVE SPANISH PATRIOTS." AMONG OTHERS PLEDGED TO JOIN IN THE STOPPAGE ARE PRESS AND TV WORKERS. A GROUP CALLING ITSELF "THE COMMITTEE OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE" SPONSORED A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION AT AN ATHENS THEATER. DURING THE ENSUING EVENTS, THE GOG WAS CALLED UPON TO RECALL GREECE'S AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN AND A MOTION WAS PASSED TO THE EFFECT THAT "THE BLOOD WHICH WAS SHED WILL DROWN FRANCO AND HIS CLIQUE." THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN THESSALONIKI HAS ALSO REPORTED (REF B) PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE EXECUTIONS IN THAT CITY, WITH A FEW ANTI-U.S. BANNERS EVIDENT.

4. FOR ITS PART, THE PRESS HAS CONTINUED ITS TIRADE AGAINST THE FRANCE REGIME. BANNER HEADLINES REPORT THE STRONG PROTESTS LAUNCHED ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. THE PRESS WAS ALSO QUICK TO PICK UP THE REMARKS OF DUTCH FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, COMPARING THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN WITH ITS POLICY FOR "SECURITY" REASONS, TOWARD THE GREEK JUNTA. TYPICALLY, ANTI-AMERICAN ELEFTHEROTYPIA FRONTPAGED ITS STORY WITH "AMERICA SUPPORTS FRANC, CYNICAL STATEMENT BY WHITE HOUSE: WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE BASES."
KUBISCH

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